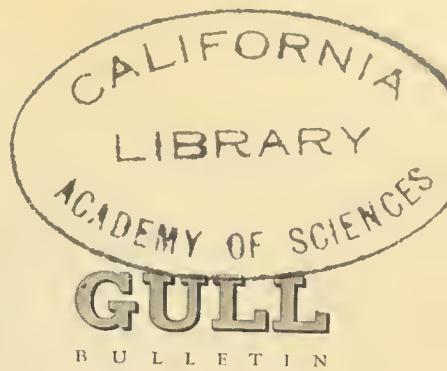


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THE
MONTHLY



VOLUME 10

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA, APRIL, 1928

NUMBER 4

APRIL MEETING: The next regular meeting of the Association will be held on Thursday evening, the 12th inst., at eight o'clock in the Board Room of the State Board of Harbor Commissioners, Ferry Building, 2nd floor, Room 19.

The speakers of the evening will be Mr. J. W. Maillard, Jr., Director of the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce, and Dr. H. C. Bryant, our honorary President and Director of The Bureau of Education of the State Fish and Game Commission.

Mr. Maillard will tell us of "San Francisco's co-operation in the Election of a State Bird for California."

Dr. Bryant will be the principal speaker of the evening, choosing for his subject: "Aspiring Candidates for the State Bird."

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APRIL FIELD TRIP will be taken on Sunday, April 15th, to Lake Merced. East Bay members should take ferryboat reaching San Francisco about 8:40 A. M. and go thence by Mission Street car, line No. 12 with "Ocean" sign. San Francisco members may take Ingleside car and transfer to Mission car at Nineteenth Avenue. Leave car at Fort Funston entrance on the Boulevard, near Forty-first Avenue, where party will form at 9:30 A. M. Bring luncheon and filled canteens. Leader: Mrs. H. P. Bracelin.

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE MARCH MEETING: The one hundred thirty-second regular meeting of the Association was held on March 8th, in the Board Room of the State Board of Harbor Commissioners, with Dr. Frederick W. D'Evelyn, President, in the chair; Mrs. Carl Smith, Secty., twenty-two members and guests present.

Mr. Harwell, Chairman of the State Bird Committee, reported on the progress of the various activities in connection with the work, also saying that after some correspondence with the Southern California Committee a list of twenty-two birds had been agreed upon as candidates for a State Bird.

Miss Petit gave a brief talk on her experiences in trying to interest high school students in bird study.

Mr. A. J. Cloud, Chief Deputy Superintendent of Schools in San Francisco, was the principal speaker of the evening. His subject was, "Interest in Bird Life among Pupils of San Francisco Elementary Schools."

Mr. Cloud told us that during the spring months, the greatest interest is shown by the pupils in the birds' activities. At present fifty or more San Fran-

cisco schools are taking part in a bird study "drive" which is inspiring the pupils to present programs showing the effect of their studies. Some try to imitate the call notes and songs, others are rehearsing plays in which costumes to represent birds will be worn. Some are even inspired to glorify the birds in verse.

In closing, Mr. Cloud expressed himself as being satisfied that "preservation of bird life in California is safe in the hands of children who are developing such an interest as is manifested in their present educational activities. When they become adults they will certainly be champions of the birds of our glorious State."

* * *

ARE SHORE BIRDS DIMINISHING?

Man's encroachment on the feeding grounds of our shore birds has slowly but surely lessened their numbers in the San Francisco Bay Region, until some of the species that were formerly present in large numbers are to be seen only occasionally.

It has been my good fortune this spring to visit on several occasions the marshes in the vicinity of Dumbarton Bridge and the observations made were very gratifying.

The water adjacent to the bridge on the Coyote Hills side is not subject to the tide as it consists of pickling ponds belonging to a salt company, with the exception of one tidal canal which runs around the hills to Newark. The main or central channel leaves a wide expanse of mud flats exposed at low tide.

To the observer who approaches these pickling ponds when the tide is high on the marshes will be presented a vast assembly of birds sleeping on the low cross-dykes, and the chance for observation is practically nil.

According to the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey, high and low tides occur at different times of the day and on some days only three tides occur. This statement I do not doubt, but will someone kindly tell me why, in about two hours after the tide starts to ebb, these sleeping birds, who cannot feel the action of the tide, suddenly awaken and in approximately half an hour leave the pickling ponds entirely abandoned? Thereafter, for two or more miles the tide line is thickly dotted with these busily feeding waders.

At flood tide the birds leave the marshes and return to the pickling ponds to preen and rest, and some seem to find, even there, food to their liking. Most of the returning birds fly in flocks of more or less the same numbers. From this I give the following count subject to correction:

Avocets, 1500

Western willets, 6,000 to 7,000

Hudsonian curlew, 2,300

Black-bellied plover in winter plumage, 10

Semipalmated plover, 17

Western and least sandpipers. numbers too great to estimate

Killdeer, 20

Greater and lesser yellowlegs were seen but not counted.

On Sunday, March 18th, the avocets were beginning to show marked coloration.

* * *

CARL R. SMITH.

AMERICAN EGRETS WINTERING IN THE SUISUN MARSHES

Since December of last year, the writer has had occasion to make several trips to Sacramento by train. The first trip was made on December 7th, when egrets in two groups of four and six respectively, were seen in the

marshes about eight miles east of Benicia. On December 18th, these numbers had increased to six and eight and kept increasing as the winter advanced until on March 17th of this year there were thirty-six all in one flock in a marsh at Hoyt, which is indicated by a sign-post only, and is seven miles east of Benicia. Anyone wishing to visit this place by automobile will find it ideally located. One may turn off the highway near a hill which has the "Flapjack Miner" sign in front of it, leave one's car, follow the railroad a few hundred yards and approach to within a few yards of the egrets. The hill and a fence afford protection while approaching the marsh. In a small rock cut at the same place rock wrens are to be found at this season.

I might mention in passing that many other interesting birds, besides egrets may be seen through a car window on a trip to Sacramento. On one trip in January when the day was dark and somewhat foggy, eight short-eared owls were beating back and forth over a marsh. There are many species of ducks in winter. Great blue herons, American bitterns, and yellow-legs usually furnish their quota. On March 15th there were ten pairs of burrowing owls in less than that number of miles after leaving the marshes.

Birding from a car window is an excellent means of taking away the monotony of a long ride.

C. A. BRYANT.



MARCH FIELD TRIP was taken on Sunday, March 11th, to Point Bonita by way of Rodeo Lagoon. The weather was cool and windy with a heavy mist in the morning.

At the entrance of the military reservation on the outskirts of Sausalito two band-tailed pigeons furnished quite a surprise by suddenly appearing from out of the oaks, circling about and back into the oaks.

Some of the party followed the trail through the oaks lining the bay shore, the others kept to the road, passed through Fort Baker and over the scenic route to Point Bonita. Those following the road through the tunnel were afforded an opportunity to see two red-tailed hawks indulging in what seemed to be an aerial battle. Another red-tailed hawk was being persecuted by a prairie falcon. Over a nearby hill, turkey vultures were soaring peacefully. Two ravens appeared from over another hill and settled on the ground not far away.

In the marsh which parallels the road, many savannah and song sparrows were found. Yellow-throats were singing and several Wilson snipe were flushed.

On the lagoon a male surf scoter was accompanied by seven females. Offshore from the beach where luncheon was eaten, hundreds of Western grebes were resting on the water. At the lighthouse an excellent opportunity was had to study the three species of cormorants.

One enthusiastic member has called attention to the fact that, "On last year's trip twelve species were seen that were not seen this year and this year thirteen species were seen that were not seen last year." As last year's trip was taken two weeks later, this may account for the difference.

Birds encountered were: Pacific loon, western, American-eared and pied-billed grebes; Farallone double-crested, brandt and Baird pelagic cormorants; common mallard, canvas-back duck, lesser scaup, surf scoter, ruddy duck; northern turkey vulture, western red-tailed hawk, prairie falcon, desert sparrow hawk; American coot, northern killdeer, Wilson snipe; glaucous-

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winged, northern western and California gulls; California murre, northern band-tailed pigeon; Allen hummingbird; western belted kingfisher; Monterey red-shafted flicker; black phoebe, California horned lark; northwestern California jay, western raven, western American crow; California plain titmouse, Pacific Coast bush-tit, ruddy wren-tit, Vigor's Bewick wren; western robin, western ruby-crowned kinglet, American pipit, lutescent orange-crowned and Pacific Audubon warblers; San Francisco yellow-throat; San Francisco red-winged blackbird, western meadowlark, California Brewer blackbird; California linnet, green-backed Arkansas goldfinch; San Francisco spotted and brown towhees, Bryant savannah, California rufous-crowned, Nuttall white-crowned, golden-crowned and Marin song sparrows. Fifty-four species.

Members in attendance were: Mesdames Bracelin, Fowler, Hall, Kelly, Kibbe, Stephens; Mesdemoiselles Ames, Ayer, Cohen, Ethel and Martha Crum, Petit; Dr. Card; Messrs. Bremer, Bryant, deFremery, Lockerbie, Meyer, Smith. Guests: Mrs. Lockerbie, Mesdemoiselles Browning, Herring, Kautz, Markham, White, Wilson; Messrs. Follett, Stephens, Warner, Sterling Gorrell, Henry Jacobs; Scouts David Bacigalupi, Merton Rosen, Philipp Sebastian. Nineteen members and fifteen guests.

* * *

"BIRDS OF THE STATES"

Now that California is having a campaign for a State Bird, one often hears the question asked, "Which States now have State Birds and which is their State Bird?"

Nature Magazine for March has published "The following list which lays no claim to completeness."

Florida—Mockingbird.
Kansas—Eastern Meadowlark.
Kentucky—Cardinal.
Louisiana—Pelican.
Maine—Black-capped Chickadee.
Maryland—Baltimore Oriole.
Missouri—Bluebird.
Nebraska—Western Meadowlark.
New York—Bluebird.
Oregon—Western Meadowlark.
Texas—Mockingbird.
Virginia—Robin.
Wisconsin—Robin.

* * *

ANNUAL DUES

Will the members who have not yet paid their annual dues to the Association please do so without further notification and help a busy treasurer.

AUDUBON ASSOCIATION OF THE PACIFIC

FOR THE STUDY AND THE PROTECTION OF BIRDS

President.....Dr. Frederick W. D'Evelyn.....Phelan Bldg., San Francisco
Recording Secretary.....Mrs. Carl Smith.....563 Forty-second Ave., San Francisco
Corresponding Secretary.....C. B. Lastreto.....260 California St., San Francisco
Treasurer.....Chas. Bryant.....Room 1011, 65 Market St., San Francisco

Meets second Thursday of each month at 8:00 p.m., in the Board Room of the State
Board of Harbor Commissioners, Ferry Building, Second Floor, Room 19.

Address Bulletin correspondence to Chas. Bryant, Room 1011, 65 Market St., San Francisco.
Subscription to Bulletin alone, 35¢ per year.

Membership dues, payable January 1, \$3.00 per year.